JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

Concord-Carlisle School Committee Concord School Committee Conference Room 4 & Zoom August 23, 2022

Present: Tracey Marano, Chair, CCSC; CSC

Alexa Anderson, Chair, CSC; CCSC Carrie Rankin, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC

Courtland Booth, CSC; CCSC Cynthia Rainey, CSC, CCSC Sara Wilson, CCSC (via Zoom)

Domingos DaRosa, CCRSD METCO Rep (via Zoom)

Ayesha Lawton, CPS METCO Rep

Absent: Sharon Whitt, Vice Chair, CCSC

Present from Administration: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD

Present from MASC: Dorothy Presser, Field Director

Glenn Koocher, Executive Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Anderson called the workshop to order for the CSC at 4:05 PM and Ms. Marano then called the workshop to order for the CCSC. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Wilson, aye.

II. DISCUSSION

A. Self Evaluation. Mr. Koocher shared summary observations and recommendations with the SC. He noted that it was evident in the evaluations that everyone on the SC wants the district to succeed and for the students to do well. He also noted the positive relationship between the Administration, SC and faculty. The committee was commended for its commitment to improving the onboarding process for new members. Mr. Koocher noted that he and Ms. Presser differ in opinion on how long it takes to get new members "up and running", Ms. Presser things a few months, Mr. Koocher thinks a few years. Regarding communications, he stated that it may be worth looking into the way the SC members communicate with the Superintendent or with the public. Mr. Koocher stated that there were questions around how information was shared with the SC and how the SC shares info with each other and/or the Central Office. He recommended addressing this by having variation and purposefulness in meetings by having academic presentations for both the SC and the community. Ms. Presser noted the importance of sharing how such a presentation relates to the strategic plan and moving the district forward. Ms. Presser planned to share a presentation she made about guidelines for best practice in presentations. Also noted was the need for presenters, administrators and committee members to be conscientious about not speaking in budget jargon or "ed speak" so that the discussions can be understood by all. Mr. Koocher stated that the SC needs to have a discussion around the balance of time and effort spent on Concord and Regional issues.

Regarding fiduciary responsibilities, he stated that there is a commitment to the children in the district as well as the responsibility to look out for the wellbeing of the district. He stated that no question about money is out of order, noting that Superintendents are encouraged to notify SC members of movement of money during the year. Ms. Presser noted the need for clarity around warrants and Mr. Koocher stated that no bill should be paid until it has been approved by the SC or designee. He stated that the evaluations also showed the need for clarity with regard to presentations related to data, recommending that someone be available to explain presentations to the public so anyone can understand them. Ms. Presser stated that it is important that staff be given guidelines for presentations. Referencing an incident that occurred with the National School Boards Association, Mr. Koocher urged everyone to be more cautious and think carefully about the impact of what is said upon the ears of the people who hear it. He noted that the district is very

fortunate, having a high level of parent satisfaction and good faculty morale. He stated that, while the SC has issues that it needs to deal with, based on the comments, these issues are surmountable.

Mr. Koocher and Ms. Presser spoke about the budget process and making sure the budget reflected any goals for the district while balancing taxpayer concerns. Ms. Marano asked for input/recommendations on a new seating arrangement for the SC. Mr. Koocher noted that an effective voice at the table could be as effective as a vote and Ms. Presser suggested experimenting with different setups to see what worked best. Introductions were then made. Ms. Presser spoke to the importance of discussing norms within the SC.

III. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the workshop was made by Mr. Booth, for both CSC and CCSC and the workshop adjourned at 5:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 9.27.22

Abbreviations:

CCHS Concord-Carlisle High School

CCRSD Concord-Carlisle Regional School District

CCSC Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee

CCTA Concord-Carlisle Teachers' Association

CEF Concord Education Fund CMS Concord Middle School

CMSBC Concord Middle School Building Committee

CPS Concord Public Schools
CSC Concord School Committee

SC School Committee